

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## EACC OFFICIAL CALLS JAPANESE TO SPECIAL TASK IN ASIA

U Kyaw Than, associate general secretary of the East Asia Christian Council, has called upon Japanese Christians to play a special role in modern Asia.

Interviewed at his Bangkok offices, Mr. Than noted that Japanese churchmen, "because of their country's position as trader and supplier to the region", are in a position to provide "a leavening of the lump in Asia out of all proportion to their numbers". "Japanese Christians are mobile", the EACC official noted, "and will become increasingly so. They will be travelling in Asia in greater numbers than other Christians. Travel provides opportunity for observation, proclamation and service".

The Asia Church leader confessed to doubts, however, over Japanese abilities to capitalize upon Christian opportunities. "The leadership is mired in a theological preoccupation which is not characteristic of the total Christian community in Asia", he observed. "There is a sense in which such a preoccupation sets the Japanese Christian apart, hindering him in dialogue."

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS, RUN CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR FOR TOKYO GOVERNORSHIP

The president of St. Paul's Rikkyo University, a Christian, will be a fusion candidate for the governorship of Tokyo in elections set for April 15.

The electoral contestant is Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita, 65, a scholar in international law and an Episcopalian. Dr. Matsushita is a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, and one of Central Committee of C.C.IA.W.C.C.

Tunning on both the Liberal Democratic and Democratic Socialist tickets, the Tokyo Christian educator will be opposed by Professor Ryokichi Minobe of Tokyo University of Education, a Socialist-Communist candidate, and by a Komeito candidate who is a director of Soka Gakkai.



Asked whether he wished to "consult" before accepting the nomination to office, Dr. Matsushita proudly observed, "There is no one I need to ask".

#### KOREAN UNIVERSITY LEADER ADDRESSES ICU CONVOCATION

Yonsei University dean of students Dr. Seong Nae Un recently addressed the winter convocation at International Christian University, Tokyo, on "Problems of Education in Korea". The Korean educator was accompanied on his Japanese visit by 15 Yonsei students, who began a seminar tour of this country under the annual student exchange program operated by Yonsei and ICU.

#### ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR TARGET SET IN FINANCING DRIVE FOR GRAHAM TOKYO CRUSADE

Japanese hosts to the Billy Graham evangelistic team have set a goal of \$100,000 (¥36,000,000) in their effort to raise funds for the Billy Graham Tokyo Crusade. The Crusade, billed for October 20-29 at Budokan auditorium, will be financed entirely by Christians of Japan, though personal expenses of the American evangelist and his team will be contributed by the Graham organization.

At meetings in Tokyo on February 3rd and following, Crusade director Dan Piatt of the Graham group, met with 200 pastors and laymen of Tokyo to map an ambitious pre-crusade visitation program which will take Christian workers into every Tokyo home in the weeks following July 1. The Planning Committee for the Crusade will enlist several thousand persons in a counsellor-training program, and will organize thousands of home prayer meetings in the weeks preceding the mammoth effort.

#### SOKA GAKKAI'S KOMEITO PARTY PICKS-UP STRENGTH IN JAPANESE ELECTION

Komeito, the Soka Gakkai-sponsored political party, has picked-up 25 seats in the Lower house of the Japanese Diet in a maiden effort to enter the body. Komeito politicians already hold 20 seats in the upper house, the House of Councillors, in addition to many places in prefectural and city governments.

Komeito polled 2,472,371 votes in the January 29 national election contest, about 5 per cent of the total votes cast. Big Komeito strength was revealed to be in the cities, especially in Tokyo where party candidates drew 13.1 per cent of the vote. Komeito responded immediately to the triumph by announcing it would run its own candidate in the Tokyo gubernatorial campaign set for April.

In a parallel to the Komeito spurt, the Japanese Communist Party also demonstrated surprising big-city power. Nationwide, the communists pulled 4 per cent of the votes, but in Tokyo wards their percentage climbed to 9.9 per cent.

Seventeen Christians were elected to the Lower House, as opposed to 18 who held seats in the last Diet.

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#### EDITOR'S NOTE: DEADLINES FOR CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Officials and groups holding items for insertion in Christian Activity News are advised to have their copy in the hands of the editors by noon on the first and third Friday of every month.

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